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**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT**  
**EASTERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA**  
**FRESNO DIVISION**

MANUEL RIOS, JR.,	)	Case No.: 1:23-CV-00713-SKO
	)	
Plaintiff,	)	STIPULATION FOR THE AWARD AND
	)	PAYMENT OF ATTORNEY FEES AND
vs.	)	EXPENSES PURSUANT TO THE EQUAL
	)	ACCESS TO JUSTICE ACT, 28 U.S.C.
COMMISSIONER OF SOCIAL SECURITY,	)	§ 2412(d), AND COSTS PURSUANT TO 28
	)	U.S.C. § 1920; ORDER RE: STIPULATION
	)	AND DENYING MOTION FOR
Defendant.	)	ATTORNEY'S FEES AS MOOT
	)	
	)	(Docs. 21 & 24)

IT IS HEREBY STIPULATED by and between the parties through their undersigned counsel, subject to the approval of the Court, that Plaintiff be awarded attorney fees and expenses in the amount \$7,500.00 (SEVEN THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED dollars) under the Equal Access to Justice Act (EAJA), 28 U.S.C. § 2412(d), and no costs under 28 U.S.C. § 1920. This amount represents compensation for all legal services rendered on behalf of Plaintiff by counsel in connection with this civil action, in accordance with 28 U.S.C. §§ 1920; 2412(d).

After the Court issues an order for EAJA fees to Plaintiff, the government will consider the matter of Plaintiff's assignment of EAJA fees to counsel, if any. Pursuant to *Astrue v. Ratliff*, 560 U.S. 586, 598, 130 S.Ct. 2521, 177 L.Ed.2d 91 (2010), the ability to honor any assignment will depend on whether the fees are subject to any offset allowed under the United States

Department of the Treasury's Offset Program. After the order for EAJA fees is entered, the government will determine whether they are subject to any offset.

Fees shall be made payable to Plaintiff, but if the Department of the Treasury determines that Plaintiff does not owe a federal debt, then the government shall cause the payment of fees to be made directly to counsel, pursuant to the assignment executed by Plaintiff. Any payments made shall be delivered to counsel.

This stipulation constitutes a compromise settlement of Plaintiff's request for EAJA attorney fees and does not constitute an admission of liability on the part of Defendant under the EAJA or otherwise. Payment of the agreed amount shall constitute a complete release from and bar to any and all claims that Plaintiff and/or counsel including counsel's firm may have relating to EAJA attorney fees or costs in connection with this action.

This award is without prejudice to the rights of counsel and/or counsel's firm to seek Social Security Act attorney fees under 42 U.S.C. § 406(b), subject to the savings clause provisions of the EAJA.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: February 26, 2024

/s/ Jonathan O. Pena\*  
JONATHAN O. PENA  
(as authorized by email on February 26, 2024)  
Attorney for Plaintiff

Date: February 26, 2024

PHILLIP A. TALBERT  
United States Attorney  
MATHEW W. PILE  
Associate General Counsel  
Social Security Administration

/s/ Angela Thornton-Millard  
ANGELA THORNTON-MILLARD  
Special Assistant United States Attorney  
Social Security Administration  
Attorney for Defendant

**ORDER**

Based upon the parties' Stipulation for the Award and Payment of Equal Access to Justice Act Fees (the "Stipulation") (Doc. 24),

**IT IS ORDERED** that fees in the amount of \$7,500.00 as authorized by 28 U.S.C. § 2412, and no costs as authorized by 28 U.S.C. § 1920, be awarded subject to the terms of the Stipulation.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Plaintiff's motion for attorney's fees (Doc. 21) is DENIED as MOOT.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

Dated: **February 26, 2024**

*/s/ Sheila K. Oberto*  
UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE